What is claimed is

1. A method for synchronising time bases of a first video device which transmits a video signal comprising image information and synchronisation information and of a second video device which receives said composite video signal, wherein

a) synchronisation information is extracted from the video signal received by the second video device and from the time base of the second video device;

b) a phase difference between the video signal received by the second video device and the time base of the second video device is determined based on said extracted synchronisation information;

characterised in that

c) control information of a first type representative of the amount of said phase difference is transmitted to said first device; and

d) in said first device the phase of the video signal is switched by a phase angle represented by said first type control information.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein steps a) to b) are cyclically repeated.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the first type control information is a binary data word having a predefined number $n \geq 2$ of bits,

e) wherein the first type control information and second type control information are determined such that the sum of phase differences represented by said first and second type control information is the phase difference determined in step b),

f) the second type control information is also transmitted to said first device, and

g) a phase shift as represented by said second type control information is applied to the video signal in said first device.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein step g) is carried out by increasing or decreasing the frequency of the pixel clock signal of the time base of said first device according to the sign of the phase shift represented by said second type control information.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein step g) is carried out by increasing or decreasing the frequency of the pixel clock signal of the time base of said first device according to the amplitude of the phase shift represented by said second type control information.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein steps c) and d) are carried out only if the phase difference represented by said first type control information is different from zero.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a time for carrying out step d) is chosen according to the phase difference determined in step b) such that after carrying out step d) the video signal at the first device assumes a predefined phase.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the predefined phase is the beginning of an image in the video signal.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image information comprised in the video signal is formed of a se-

quence of images, each image comprising a plurality of lines, and the first type control information is representative of a number of lines by which the composite video signal received from the first video device is phase shifted with respect to the time base of the second device.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the video signal is transmitted in digital form as a sequence of data packets, each data packet comprising image data and at least some of the data packets comprising a sending time data derived from the time base of the first device and representative of a sending time of the packet in which it is comprised, wherein each sending time data, upon receipt by the second device, is compared to receiving time data derived from the time base of the second device, and the second type control information is derived from a difference between said sending and receiving time data.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first device comprises a first counter operating based on a pixel frequency derived from the time base of said first device and the second device comprises a second counter operating based on a pixel frequency derived from the time base of said second device, and wherein a counting value of said first counter is included in a data packet as sending time data, and is compared to a counting value of said second counter as receiving time data.

12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein when the difference between counting values of said two counters exceeds a given threshold, the second counter is set to the value received from the first counter.

13. A video device having an output port for outputting a video signal and an input port for inputting control information, wherein the time base of the device is adapted to switch the phase of a video signal output at said output port by a phase angle specified by a first type of said control information.

14. The video device of claim 13, wherein the time base is further adapted to set a pixel frequency of said video signal according to a second type of said control information.

15. A video device having an input port for inputting a composite video signal, means for determining a phase difference between the input composite video signal and a time base of said video device, and an output port for outputting control information quantitatively specifying said phase difference.

16. A video device having an output port for outputting a compressed data stream from a compression engine processing the video signal, an input port for inputting control information and a time base which is adapted to switch the phase of the video signal and thus the compressed data stream output at said output port by a phase angle specified by said control information.

17. A video device having an input port for inputting a compressed data stream having a compression engine pixel frequency, a reference input representative of video timing requested by a mixer for receiving a reference pixel frequency and reference horizontal and/or vertical signals, a decompression engine, whose pixel clock is obtained from the reference input signal, and capable to re-build a

video signal out of the compressed data stream, and means for determining a frequency error between the reference pixel frequency and the compression engine pixel frequency, and a phase angle between the output video signal and the reference horizontal and/or vertical signals, and an output port for outputting control information quantitatively specifying said frequency error and said phase angle.